Depletion of Ground Water due to digging of Tubewells

1165. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale emphasis on digging of tube wells has resulted in depletion of Ground Water;

(b) whether depletion of ground water has seriously affected irrigation and rural drinking water supply;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Some fall in ground water levels has been observed in a few areas in the States of Haryana Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.

(b) This has occurred in some localized areas. However, the present level of development is estimated at only 25 per cent of the total utilizable ground water resource of the country.

(c) and (d) Behaviour of ground water levels in the country is being monitored by the Central Ground Water Board through 6388 observation network stations. Data collected from these stations do not indicate any large scale depletion of ground water resources.

Closing down of Farms managed by the State Farms Corporation of India

1166. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government propose to close down some farms being managed by the State Farms Corporation of India, if so, the names thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The working of State Farms Corporation of India is benig reviewed by the Government. As the review is not yet complete, no final view has been taken in this matter.

Price of Garlic

1167. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of a very common household item of food such as garlic has shot up to Rs. 40 a kilo as against earlier price of Rs. 8 a kilo due to heavy exports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price of any commodity shot up even on exports of small quantities due to shot manipulation of middlemen; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps proposed to be taken by Government including fixation of prices under Essential Commodities Act for every export item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) It is a fact that there has been substantial increase in the price